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AUTHOR Bavolek, Stephen J.
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ABSTRACT

The study was designed to assess the parenting and child rearing attitudes of four parent populations: abusive parents (N=24), foster parents (N=99), parents of handicapped children (N=171), and nonabusive parents (N=47). Demographic data was collected on the four populations and Ss were administered the Adolescent Parenting Inventory. Among findings were that 23 of the 24 abusive parents were females with a mean age range of 26 to 30 years, that foster parents reported 48% of the children were abused prior to placement, that approximately 91% of the handicapped children's parents indicated they had an excellent to average relationship with their mothers and fathers with 6% indicating they felt their parents abused them as children, and that 63% of nonabusive parents indicated that they had an above average to excellent relationship with their mothers while only 53% indicated similar relationships with their fathers. Conclusions included that the Adolescent Parenting Inventory has demonstrated successful utility in assessing and discriminating the parenting and child rearing attitudes among abusive and nonabusive parents; and, as a group, parents of handicapped children expressed limited empathic behaviors and place greater demands on children to meet their own needs. (SBH)

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PRIMARY PREVENTION OF CHILD ABUSE:

Identification of High Risk Parents

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Stephen Bavolek, Ph.D.

University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire

PRIMARY PREVENTION OF CHILD ABUSE: THE IDENTIFICATION OF HIGH RISK PARENTS*

Principal Investigator:

Stephen J. Bavolek, Ph.D.
Department of Special Education
University of Wisconsin--Eau Claire
Eau Claire, Wisconsin 54701

Data Analysis Conducted by:

Richard Keene, Ph.D.
Research Specialist
State Board of Education
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111

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Introduction

Since the early identification of child abuse as the "battered child syndrome", (Kempe, Silverman, Steele, Droegemueller, and Silver, 1962), professionals in medicine, psychology, social work, sociology, anthropology and education have sought to gain an indepth understanding into the nature and causes of maltreatment to children at the hands of their caretakers. Various hypothetical explanations for the occurrence of child abuse have been offered, but few have statistically defensible findings. One explanation, the "psychopathological model" of child abuse and neglect, purports that parents who abuse their children have distinguishable pathological traits in their personality constellation which accounts for abusing and battering the child (Galdston, 1965; Steele & Pollock, 1968). Sociologists have criticized those who view the phenomena of child abuse strictly from a psychopathological model (Gelles, 1973) and feel a more prolific approach to the problem of child abuse is to focus on examining sociological variables such as socio-economic status, sex, employment status and social class. Anthropologists exploring the nature of child abuse support an international and inter-disciplinary emphasis on the influence of cross-cultural childrearing behaviors in Western cultures (Korbin, 1977).

The most prevelant theory discussed in the literature relative to the maltreatment of children focuses on the inappropriate parenting attitudes and child rearing practices of parents. The theory postulates that abusive parenting attitudes and child rearing practices are learned by the abused child and are replicated upon becoming a parent (Ackley, 1977; Jayaratne, 1977; Lystad, 1975; Spinetta & Rigler, 1972). Steele and

Pollock (1968) have shown in their clinical work that abusing parents have a history of being abused or neglected as children and have recreated the same pattern in rearing their own children. Martin (1976) suggests that children who experience abusive relationships with their parents establish similar relationships, upon becoming parents, with their children. Steele (1970) claims that abusive parenting behaviors are learned by the child during the developmental stages of his/her childhood, in an effort to gain some measure of self protection and mastery, identifies very strongly with the aggressor and develops a very deepset pattern in him/herself of discharging aggression against the outside world in order to manage his/her own insecurities. As a result, the child tends to replicate, upon assuming the role of parent, the learned abusive parenting behaviors and attitudes acquired during childhood.

Statement of Need

The research cited above suggests that abusive behaviors and attitudes are passed on from parent to child. In an attempt to identify adolescents at risk to be abusive parents and to measure the validity of the theory, Bavolek, Kline, McLaughlin and Publicover (1978) assessed the parenting and child rearing attitudes of abused and non-abused adolescents. Utilizing the Adolescent Parenting Inventory (API) developed by the researchers, abused adolescents expressed significantly more abusive attitudes towards their expectations of children, ability to be empathic, utilization of physical punishment and role reversal. The findings support, in part, the perpetuation theory of abuse postulated by Steele. Additionally, the findings suggested that abused adolescents were a high risk when compared to non-abused adolescents to become abusive parents.

Based on the research findings with adolescent populations, the need arose to examine the utility of the inventory in assessing the parenting and child rearing attitudes of parent populations. Such assessment would be designed to identify parents whose attitudes toward parenting and rearing children indicate a "high risk" for abuse and neglect. The establishment of the API as a useful screening and assessment tool could prove invaluable to future primary prevention efforts.

Purpose

The purpose of the study was to assess the parenting and child rearing attitudes of four parent populations: abusive parents, foster parents, parents of handicapped children and non-abusive parents. The need to conduct such assessment was based on the following rationale:

1) The Adolescent Parenting Inventory (API) has demonstrated utility as an assessment device in discriminating between abused and non-abused adolescents (Bavolek, et al, 1978.) The utilization of the API in assessing the parenting and child rearing attitudes of abusive and non-abusive parents would add further validity to the discriminatory capabilities of the inventory.

2) An assessment of the parenting and child rearing attitudes of abusive parents would provide a tentative standard (score on the API) from which the assessed attitudes of the other parent populations, i.e., foster parents, parents of handicapped children, and non-abusive parents, could be compared. Such comparisons could lead to the identification of "high risk" parents, that is, parents whose expressed attitudes are similar to the expressed attitudes of known child abusers.

3) The establishment of a high risk standard for foster parent populations could be utilized as a mechanism for training and/or additional supervision by county foster care programs. A similar standard for parents of handicapped children could have educational utility for hospital prenatal child care classes and school related parent groups.

4) A standard of risk generated from abusive parents could further be utilized by the schools to identify adolescents with similar expressed

attitudes for treatment/educational purposes. As such, schools could provide programs to modify the expressed parenting attitudes utilizing a pre-post measurement to evaluate the effectiveness of the instruction.

In summary, assessing the parenting and child rearing attitudes of abusive parents, foster parents, parents of handicapped children, and non-abusive parents could provide a basis for identifying parents and adolescents whose expressed attitudes would indicate a high risk for maltreating children. To this end, the various community agencies operating parenting training programs to assist the aforementioned populations could become systematic in their screening, assessment, and training methods.

Procedures

Selection and Description of Populations

The following procedures were utilized in assessing the attitudes of the target populations. A brief description of the population is offered for clarification.

Abusive Parents

Abusive parents participating in the study had been previously identified for child abuse and neglect by Protective Service workers in Eau Claire County Department of Human Services. The social workers were given the API and accompanying demographic sheet (see appendix A) and instructed to administer the instrument during one of their scheduled meetings with the parents. The parents were at various stages of interaction with their social workers. That is, the degree of involvement varied between the social worker and the parent. No account was made to measure the length or degree of the relationships although such

factors could influence response accuracy. The data presented in Table 1, page 8 , lists the general demographic characteristics of the abusive parent population.

Insert Table 1

A review of the data generated from the abusive parent population indicate 23 of the 24 abusive parents were females with a mean age range of 26 to 30 years. Approximately 88% of the abusive parents felt that the relationship with their mother was excellent to average. Only 21% felt that they were abused by their mother. Feelings toward their fathers were less positive. Seventy-one percent felt the relationship with their father was excellent to average, however, only 17% felt that they were abused by their father.

Foster Parents

A total of 99 foster parents participated in the study from the foster care programs in Eau Claire and Clark Counties. Eighty inventories plus an accompanying introductory letter and demographic sheet (see appendix B) were mailed to the foster parents in Eau Claire County. A total of 78 or 78% were completed and returned. Twenty-five inventories and demographic sheets were distributed to foster parents in Clark County. A total of 21 or 84% were returned completed. Table 2 presents a listing of the responses generated from foster parent populations.

TABLE 1

Summary of Demographic
Characteristics of the Parent Populations

	Abusive Parents	Foster Parents	Parents of Handicapped Children	Non-abusive Parents
Sex:				
Male	1	41	24	2
Female	23	58	145	45
Total	24	99	171	47
Age:				
Mean age range	26-30 yrs.	35-40 yrs.	35-40 yrs.	29-33 yrs.
Ethnic Background:				
White	24	97	169	45
Black	0	0	1	1
American Indian	0	1	0	0
Mex-American-Chicano	0	1	0	0
Oriental	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	1	1
Highest Grade Completed:				
Grade School	10	13		0
High School	11	47		4
College	3	22		17
College Grad	0	14		26
Marital Status:				
Single	1		8	0
Married	11		141	44
Divorced	6		15	1
Separated	5		4	2
Widow(er)	1		3	0
Number of Previous Marriages:				
0	14		132	36
1	8		28	2
2	1		6	0
3	1		0	0
4	0		0	0
More than 4	0		0	0
Number of children from present marriage:				
0-2	18		75	40
3-5	4		76	7
6-10	2		19	0
11 +	0		0	0
Number of children from previous marriage:				
0-2	20		159	47
3-5	4		8	0
6-10	0		4	0
11 +	0		0	0
Total number of children living with you:				
0-2	19		101	40
3-5	5		70	7
6-10	0		0	0
11 +	0		0	0
Relationship with Mother:				
Excellent	4		64	14
Above Average	12		37	16
Average	5		54	14
Not too good	0		11	2
Not good at all	2		5	1
Abused as child by Mother?				
Yes	5			1
No	16			46
Don't Know	3			0
Abused as a child by Parents?				
Yes		6	10	
No		90	160	

	Abusive Parents	Foster Parents	Parents of Handicapped Children	Non-abusive Parents
Relationship with Father:				
Excellent	4		62	12
Above Average	1		37	13
Average	12		57	17
Not too good	3		10	3
Not good at all	4		4	2
Abused as child by Father?				
Yes	4			1
No	17			43
Don't Know	2			3
Reared by:				
Natural parents	20		158	43
Single parent	1		7	1
Relatives	1		1	3
Foster parents			2	0
Adoptive parents			1	0
Institution	1		1	0
Combination	1		1	0
Are you currently working?				
Yes	8		73	23
No	15		97	24
How many nights per week do you participate in outside activities:				
None	3			7
One	3			23
Two	8			15
Three	5			1
More	4			1
No response	1			0
Religious Preference:				
Catholic		21	50	
Protestant		54	104	
LDS		0	0	
No religious affiliation		6	5	
Other		16	12	
How Many Foster Children do you have?				
1		41		
2		29		
3		15		
4		8		
5 +		2		
Before placement, were foster children abused?				
Yes		40		
No		29		
Don't Know		14		
Were you a foster child?				
Yes		2		
No		97		
Relationship with Parents:				
Excellent		19		
Above average		20		
Average		55		
Not too good		4		
Not good at all		1		
Type of child's Handicap:				
Mental Retardation			17	
Physically handicapped			37	
Emotionally disturbed			6	
Multiply handicapped			36	
Medical or other			7	
Learning disabled			41	
Not identified			27	

Table 2
Foster Parent Responses

	Distributed	Returned	% Returned
Eau Claire County	80	78	98%
Clark County	25	21	84%
Total	105	99	94%

The data presented in Table 1, page 8 , summarizes the demographic information generated from the foster parent population.

Insert Table 1

A review of Table 1 shows the mean age range of the foster parents at 35 to 40 years. Fifty nine percent of the respondents were females, 41% males, both groups predominantly white. Foster parents indicated that 48% of the children were previously abused prior to placement. Only 6% of the foster parents participating in the study felt that they were abused as children.

Parents of Handicapped Children

Parents with children identified as handicapped or exceptional were solicited to participate in the study from two primary agencies: United Cerebral Palsy of West Central Wisconsin, Inc., and Cooperative Educational Service Agency No. 6 (CESA #6). UCP of West Central Wisconsin serves nine counties with headquarters in Eau Claire. Parents whose children are physically and/or multiply handicapped are associated for providing educational services to school age children identified with special education needs.

Five hundred inventories plus accompanying letter and demographic sheet (see appendix C) were mailed to parents of children serviced by CESA #6. One hundred and forty five inventories plus letter and demographic sheet were mailed to parents associated with UCP. The data in Table 3 represents the response percentage rates.

Table 3
Parents of Handicapped Children Responses

	# Mailed	# Returned	% Returned
CESA #6	500	113	23%
UCP	145	58	40%
Total	645	171	27%

The data presented in Table 1, page 8 , presents a summary of the demographic information related to parents of handicapped children participating in the study.

Insert Table 1

A review of the information presented in Table 1 shows that the mean age range of parents with handicapped children is 35 to 40 years. An overwhelming majority of the parents are white with 0 to 5 children per family. Approximately 91% of the parents indicated they had an excellent to average relationship with their mothers and fathers with 6% indicating they felt their parents abused them as children. Forty three percent of their children's handicaps were physical and multiple in nature.

Non-Abusive Parents

The term non-abusive parents as utilized in this study is meant to indicate a parent population whose children had not been identified as abused or neglected. Parents who participated in the study had children attending pre-schools in the Cooperative Educational Service Agency #5 (CESA #5) early childhood programs, Children's Center Day Care Program, and the Eau Claire Pre-School, Inc. A description of the study was distributed to the parents by the pre-school teachers along with the parenting inventory. Parents were requested to participate in the study by completing the API and accompanying demographic sheet (see appendix D). One hundred and fifty parents were contacted by the teachers. A total of 47 inventories were returned completed--representing a return rate of 31%. The data presented in Table 1, page 8, provides an analysis of demographic factors.

Insert Table 1

A review of the data in Table 1 indicates that 96% of the non-abusive parents completing the inventory were female. The mean age range of the population was between 29 to 33 years and predominantly white. Approximately 55% of the parents were college graduates currently married for the first time. Sixty-three percent of the respondents indicated they had an above average to excellent relationship with their mothers while only 53% of the parents indicated similar relationships with their fathers.

Results

Interest existed in determining the degree to which parents differed in their attitudes towards parenting and child rearing. To this end, intra and inter-group analyses are presented.

Factor scores were selected as the unit of standardization for interpreting respondents' scores in each of the constructs. Factor scores express the degree to which each respondent possesses the quality or property that factor describes (Frane & Hill, 1977). According to Frane and Hill, under certain circumstances, factor scores have less error and are therefore more reliable measures. Factor scores have a mean of zero and standard deviation of one.

The range of factor scores for each of the constructs generated from the administration of the API to the parent populations is set forth in Tables 4, 5, 6 and 7. Column one of the tables identifies the construct. Columns two and three identify the minimum and maximum factor scores on each construct. Column four lists the range between the minimum and maximum scores. Columns five and six list the variance and standard deviations of the factor scores. Column seven lists the percentage of factor scores which fall $\pm$ standard deviations from the mean. The numbers within the parentheses are the actual numbers of parents with factor scores in each standard unit.

Abusive Parents

Factor scores generated from the administration of the API to abusive parents are presented in Table 4.

Insert Table 4

TABLE 4

Factor Score Distribution by Construct

Abusive Parents

Construct	Min. Score	Max. Score	Range	Variance	Std. Dev.	% of Responses -2	-1	0	+1	+2
A	-0.9920000	1.8699999	2.8619995	0.6190224	0.7867798	0% (0)	17% (4)	71% (17)	8% (2)	4% (1)
B	-1.4159994	1.4059992	2.8219986	0.5197957	0.7209686	4% (1)	8% (2)	71% (17)	17% (4)	0% (0)
C	-1.1919994	1.7259998	2.9179993	0.4828203	0.6948527	0% (0)	17% (4)	75% (18)	4% (1)	4% (1)
D	-1.2639999	1.8049994	3.0689993	0.4638082	0.6810347	4% (1)	8% (2)	67% (16)	17% (4)	4% (1)

A review of the data set forth in Table 4 indicates approximately 12% of the abusive parents had factor scores in Constructs B and D -1 and -2 standard deviations below their peer group mean score. Seventeen percent of the abusive parents had factor scores in Constructs A and C -1 standard deviation away from the mean.

Additionally, 17% to 21% of the abusive parents had factor scores +1 and +2 standard deviations above the mean in Constructs B and D. Eight percent to 12% of the abusive parents scored +1 and +2 standard deviations above the mean in Constructs A and C.

Foster Parents

Factor scores generated from the administration of the API to foster parents are set forth in Table 5.

Insert Table 5

A review of the data presented in Table 5 indicates foster parents had a range of factor scores -4 standard deviations below the mean and +2 standard deviations above the mean. A closer examination of the table shows that 8% to 9% of the foster parents scored -1 to -4 standard deviations below the mean in Constructs A, B, and C. In Construct D, 19% of the foster parents scored -1 and -2 standard deviations below the mean with the largest percentage -1 standard deviation below the mean. Approximately 15% of the foster parents had factor scores in all Constructs +1 and +2 standard deviations above the mean.

TABLE 5

Factor Score Distribution by Construct

Foster Parents

Construct	Min. Score	Max. Score	Range	Variance	Std. Dev.	% of Responses -4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2
A	-3.8949995	2.1929998	6.0879993	0.8634353	0.9292122	0% (0)	2% (2)	0% (0)	6% (6)	77% (76)	14% (14)	1% (1)
B	-3.6769991	2.0259991	5.7029982	0.7592267	0.8713362	2% (2)	0% (0)	0% (0)	7% (7)	78% (77)	13% (13)	0% (0)
C	-2.9369993	2.2009993	5.1379986	0.6539043	0.8086435	0% (0)	2% (2)	0% (0)	7% (7)	76% (75)	13% (13)	2% (2)
D	-1.0809994	2.4849997	3.5659990	0.6674505	0.8169765	0% (0)	0% (0)	1% (1)	18% (18)	67% (66)	13% (13)	1% (1)

Parents of Handicapped Children

Factor scores generated from the administration of the API to parents of handicapped children are set forth in Table 6.

Insert Table 6

The results of the data displayed in Table 6 indicate that approximately 12% to 17% of the parents with handicapped children had factor scores -4 standard deviations below the mean with the largest percentage of the parents -1 standard deviation away from the mean. Twelve percent of the parents with handicapped children had factor scores +2 standard deviations above the mean.

Non-Abusive Parents

Factor scores generated from the administration of the API to non-abusive parents are displayed in Table 7.

Insert Table 7

A review of the factor scores presented in Table 7 indicates that approximately 19% of the non-abusive parents scored -1 and -2 standard deviations from the mean in Constructs A, B and C. Thirteen percent of the parents had scores in Construct D -1 and -2 standard deviations below the mean. In all Constructs, the majority of the parents' scores were -1 standard deviation. Similarly, the largest percentage of parents with scores above the mean were two standard deviations from their peers.

TABLE 6

Factor Score Distribution by Construct

Parents of Handicapped Children

Construct	Min. Score	Max. Score	Range	Variance	Std. Dev.	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3
A	-3.0689993	2.1929998	5.2619991	0.5642843	0.7511886	.5% (1)	0% (0)	1.5% (3)	12% (20)	72.5% (124)	12% (20)	1.5% (3)	0% (0)
B	-2.8099995	2.0259991	4.8359985	0.4984888	0.7060374	.5% (1)	0% (0)	4% (7)	8% (14)	75% (127)	10.5% (18)	2% (4)	0% (0)
C	-2.3529997	2.2009993	4.5539989	0.6142197	0.7837217	0% (0)	.5% (1)	1% (2)	14% (24)	72% (122)	10.5% (18)	2% (4)	0% (0)
D	-1.6439991	2.4849997	4.1289988	0.7296614	0.8542022	0% (0)	0% (0)	3% (5)	14% (24)	71% (122)	8% (13)	4% (7)	0% (0)

TABLE 7

Factor Score Distribution by Construct

Non-Abusive Parents

Construct	Min. Score	Max. Score	Range	Variance	Std. Dev.	% of Responses -2	-1	0	+1	+2
A	-0.4560000	2.0379992	2.4939985	0.4730744	0.6878041	0% (0)	19% (9)	62% (29)	15% (7)	4% (2)
B	-0.6900000	1.9499998	2.6399994	0.3014633	0.5490568	2% (1)	15% (7)	66% (31)	17% (8)	0% (0)
C	-0.9450000	1.7019997	2.6469994	0.4392842	0.6627852	2% (1)	17% (8)	66% (31)	15% (7)	0% 0
D	-1.0649996	2.4119997	3.4769993	0.5865737	0.7658810	4% (2)	9% (4)	70% (33)	17% (8)	0% (0)

Discriminant Analyses

Statistical procedures were utilized to determine the discriminant capabilities of the four constructs relative to the four parent populations: abusive parents, foster parents, parents of handicapped children, and non-abusive parents. That is, interest existed in inter-group comparisons of the factor scores generated from the target parent populations. To this end, an analysis of variance (ANOVA) utilizing the BMDP2V (UCLA, 1977) was employed in carrying out the procedure. The following group comparisons were conducted:

1. Abusive Parents and Non-Abusive Parents
2. Foster Parents and Non-Abusive Parents
3. Foster Parents and Abusive Parents
4. Foster Parents and Parents of Handicapped Children

Abusive Parents and Non-Abusive Parents

The means ($\bar{x}$) and standard deviations (STD. DEV.) for the two groups, abusive and non-abusive parents, are set forth by construct in Table 8. The results of the ANOVA are displayed in Table 9.

Insert Tables 8 and 9

The results of the ANOVA displayed in Table 9 indicate a significant overall mean difference across all four constructs ($p < .001$ in constructs A, B, D and $p < .01$ in construct C) between abusive and non-abusive parents. Review of Table 8 indicates that this difference was in favor of the non-abusive parents. Their mean factor scores were higher than those of abusive parents, indicating significantly less abusive attitudes toward parenting and child rearing.

TABLE 8

Mean Factor Scores by Construct: Abusive and Non-Abusive Parents

Group	Abusive Parents		Non-Abusive Parents	
	$\bar{x}$	STD. DEV.	$\bar{x}$	STD. DEV.
Construct A	0.04071	0.78678	0.47336	0.68781
Construct B	0.05200	0.72097	0.88951	0.54906
Construct C	-0.01071	0.69485	0.44840	0.66279
Construct D	0.30987	0.68104	0.92362	0.76588

TABLE 9

Analysis of Variance: Abusive and Non-Abusive Parents

	Sum of Squares	Degrees of Freedom	Mean Squares	F	Tail Probability
Construct A					
MEAN	4.19851	1	4.19851	8.05	0.00
ERROR	35.99903	69	0.52173		
Construct B					
MEAN	14.08319	1	14.08319	37.63	0.00
ERROR	25.82266	69	0.37424		
Construct C					
MEAN	3.04366	1	3.04366	6.71	0.01
ERROR	31.31203	69	0.45380		
Construct D					
MEAN	24.17259	1	24.17259	44.30	0.00
ERROR	37.65009	69	0.54565		

Foster Parents and Non-Abusive Parents

The means ($\bar{x}$) and standard deviations (STD. DEV.) for the two groups, foster and non-abusive parents, are displayed by construct in Table 10. The results of the ANOVA are presented in Table 11.

Insert Tables 10 and 11

The data generated from the ANOVA presented in Table 11 indicates an overall significant difference ($p < .001$) between the factor scores in all four constructs of foster parents and non-abusive parents. Examination of Table 10 indicates that the difference was once again in favor of the non-abusive parents. That is, the mean scores of non-abusive parents are higher indicating less abusive attitudes in parenting and child rearing than foster parents.

Foster Parents and Abusive Parents

The means ($\bar{x}$) and standard deviations (STD. DEV.) for the two groups, foster parents and abusive parents, are displayed by construct in Table 12. The findings of the ANOVA are set forth in Table 13.

Insert Tables 12 and 13

A review of the data from the ANOVA results recorded in Table 13 denotes significant overall mean differences ($p < .001$) in constructs B and C. An examination of the mean scores presented in Table 12 shows this difference to be in favor of the foster parents. However, no significant differences were found in the factor scores associated with constructs A and C between foster parents and abusive parents.

TABLE 10

Means Factor Scores by Construct: Foster Parents and Non-Abusive Parents

Group	Foster Parents		Non-Abusive Parents	
	$\bar{x}$	STD. DEV.	$\bar{x}$	STD. DEV
Construct A	0.12088	0.92922	0.47336	0.68781
Construct B	0.47204	0.87134	0.88951	0.54906
Construct C	0.02429	0.80865	2.44840	0.66279
Construct D	0.65161	0.81698	1.92362	0.76588

TABLE 11

Analysis of Variance: Foster Parents and Non-Abusive Parents

	Sum of Squares	Degrees of Freedom	Mean Square	F	Tail Probability
Construct A					
MEAN	11.25394	1	11.25394	15.23	0.00
ERROR	106.37888	144	0.73874		
Construct B					
MEAN	59.08100	1	59.08100	96.38	0.00
ERROR	88.27238	144	0.61300		
Construct C					
MEAN	7.12108	1	7.12108	12.17	0.00
ERROR	84.29057	144	0.58535		
Construct D					
MEAN	79.07954	1	79.07954	123.25	0.00
ERROR	92.39343	144	0.64162		

TABLE 12

Mean Factor Scores by Construct: Foster Parents and Abusive Parents

Group	Foster Parents		Abusive Parents	
	$\bar{x}$	STD. DEV.	$\bar{x}$	STD. DEV.
Construct A	0.12088	0.92922	0.04071	0.78678
Construct B	0.47204	0.87134	0.05200	0.72097
Construct C	0.02429	0.80865	-0.01071	0.69485
Construct D	0.65161	0.81698	0.30987	0.68104

TABLE 13

Analysis of Variance: Foster Parents and Abusive Parents

	Sum of Squares	Degrees of Freedom	Mean Square	F	Tail Probability
Construct A					
MEAN	0.50438	1	0.50438	0.62	0.4336
ERROR	98.85490	121	0.81698		
Construct B					
MEAN	5.30482	1	5.30482	7.43	0.00
ERROR	86.36036	121	0.71372		
Construct C					
MEAN	0.00356	1	0.00356	0.01	0.939
ERROR	75.18830	121	0.62139		
Construct D					
MEAN	17.85758	1	17.85758	28.40	0.00
ERROR	76.07855	121	0.62875		

Foster Parents and Parents of Handicapped Children

The means ($\bar{x}$) and standard deviations (STD. DEV.) for foster parents and parents of handicapped children are displayed in Table 14. The results of the ANOVA are set forth in Table 15.

Insert Tables 14 and 15

A review of the results of the ANOVA set forth in Table 15 discloses significant differences in the overall mean factor scores in constructs A, B, and D. The data presented in Table 14 shows the difference to be in favor of the foster parents in constructs B and D and in favor of parents of handicapped children in construct A.

There was no significant differences of factor scores associated with construct C between foster parents and parents of handicapped children.

TABLE 14

Mean Factor Scores by Construct: Foster Parents and Parents of Handicapped Children

Group	Foster Parents		Parents of Handicapped Children	
	$\bar{x}$	STD. DEV.	$\bar{x}$	STD. DEV.
Construct A	0.12088	0.92922	0.12523	0.75119
Construct B	0.47204	0.87134	0.45340	0.70604
Construct C	0.02429	0.80865	0.06852	0.78373
Construct D	0.65161	0.81698	0.47352	0.85421

TABLE 15

Analysis of Variance: Foster Parents and Parents of Handicapped Children

	Sum of Squares	Degrees of Freedom	Mean Square	F	Tail Probability
Construct A					
MEAN	3.79783	1	3.79783	5.64	0.01
ERROR	180.54703	268	0.67368		
Construct B					
MEAN	53.69849	1	53.69849	90.43	0.00
ERROR	159.14941	268	0.59384		
Construct C					
MEAN	0.54012	1	0.54012	0.86	0.35
ERROR	168.50197	268	0.62874		
Construct D					
MEAN	79.37250	1	79.37250	112.28	0.00
ERROR	189.45472	268	0.70692		

Discussion

In reviewing the results of the study, the following discussion is intended to examine the findings:

1. The responses of abusive parents on the API indicate a variation of group attitudes. Approximately 15% of the abusive parents expressed more abusive attitudes than their abusive peers, while approximately 15% were slightly less abusive in their attitudes. Such differences may be attributable to established interactions among the parents and their social workers, length and quality of treatment, and type of abuse. No effort was made to account for such influencing factors.
2. There was slightly greater variability among the scores of non-abusive parents than in the scores of abusive parents. Approximately 19% of the non-abusive parents participating in the study fell -1 and -2 standard deviations from the mean. The range in variability of scores is particularly noteworthy in light of a response rate of only 31%. Traditional perceptions of a low rate of returned responses generally suggest that those in the target population who feel most threatened by the nature of the study will choose not to participate. If such a claim were to be made, only those parents who felt least threatened by the study participated. The range of the returned responses supports the sensitivity of the inventory as a useful assessment tool.
3. When compared to non-abusive parents, the abusive parents

expressed significantly more abusive attitudes in their expectations of children (Construct A), their ability to be empathic (Construct B), their use of physical punishment (Construct C), and in role reversal (Construct D). The significant differences of expressed attitudes between the two groups, abusive and non-abusive parents, provides additional validity of the discriminatory capabilities of the API.

4. The greatest range of scores occured among the foster parents and parents of handicapped children. Nearly 9% of the foster parents deviated in the attitudes by as much as -4 standard deviations in their expectations of children (Construct A), ability to be empathic (Construct B), and use of physical punishment (Construct C). Approximately 19% of the foster parents expressed attitudes in Construct D, role reversal, which deviated from their peers by -2 standard deviations. Scores in Construct D may suggest that a substantial percentage of foster parents seek to have their own dependency needs met by their involvement in foster parenthood to a greater degree than other foster parents.

   When compared to abusive parents, as a group foster parents are significantly less abusive in their demands to have their needs met (Construct D) by their children. However, when compared to non-abusive parents, their attitudes in Construct D are significantly more abusive.

5. When foster parents are compared to non-abusive parents in their expectations of children (Construct A), ability to be empathic (Construct B), and use of physical punishment (Construct C),

foster parents express significantly more abusive attitudes. In comparison to abusive parents, foster parents express a greater degree of empathy for their children's needs. Their attitudes towards expectations of children and utilization of physical punishment are similar to those of abusive parents. From such findings, the following conclusions may be drawn:

a. Foster parents express more empathic attitudes toward their foster children's needs (Construct B) and place less demands on their foster children to meet their own dependency needs (Construct D) when compared to abusive parents. However, their expectations of foster children and their attitudes towards utilizing physical punishment as a means of disciplining their foster children are similar to the attitudes of abusive parents.
   The inherent danger in the similarities of attitudes with abusive parents in the utilization of physical punishment as a means of disciplining children lays in the preponderance of foster placements with abused and neglected children. The employment of physical punishment by foster parents would tend to only reinforce inappropriate adult-child interactions experienced by the foster child prior to placement. In essence, the perpetration of maltreatment to children is continued by some foster placements.

b. When compared to non-abusive parents, the attitudes of foster parents are significantly more abusive in every parenting construct. The findings suggest that attempts of county agencies to place children in foster homes which

closely resemble a "normal" home environment may often fall short in desirable expectations.

6. The parenting and child rearing attitudes of parents of handicapped children who participated in the study ranged from -4 to +2 standard deviations from the mean of that population in all four constructs. In comparison to foster parents, there are significant differences between the two populations in all but one parenting behavior: the utilization of physical punishment as a means of disciplining children. Further, the attitudes of both populations regarding the use of physical punishment towards children are similar to those attitudes of abusive parents.

   Foster parents and parents of handicapped children differ in several aspects in their attitudes towards parenting and child rearing. Parents with handicapped children are less empathic towards their children's needs (Construct B) and appear to place more demands on children to meet their own dependency needs (Construct D) than foster parents. Several explanations of the finding are presented.

   a. Since all parents with handicapped children in the study had 1 to 5 children living with them, the presence of the handicapped child may have placed greater demands on the remaining non-handicapped children at home to meet the needs of the parent(s) or to act as parent surrogates to their handicapped sibling.

   b. It is also conceivable that parents with handicapped children may not have developed a bond with the child to a sufficient degree, due partially or totally to the child's handicap.

c. Parents with handicapped children may lack the additional knowledge and skills necessary to rear a child with multiple physical, intellectual, and/or emotional problems which may contribute to their limited empathic attitudes.

d. Due to the nature of the handicap, some parents may ignore the child or resent the child for placing "exorbitant" financial, educational and medical demands on the family and/or in limiting the families social activities.

In further comparisons of foster parents and parents of handicapped children, data generated from the study indicate that parents of handicapped children have slightly more appropriate expectations of children than foster parents. This may suggest that parents with both handicapped children and non-handicapped children have more appropriate expectations of "normal" child development when compared to foster parents and lack knowledge specific to development issues related to the handicapped child. Such speculation would support previous discussion presented in reference to the lower scores in empathy and role reversal generated by parents of handicapped children.

Summary and Recommendations

The overall goal of the study was to assess the parenting and child rearing attitudes of abusive parents, foster parents, parents of handicapped children, and non-abusive parents. The data generated from the study would provide a standard or index by which attitudes toward parenting and child rearing could be compared within and between the various parent populations. Such a comparison could then lead to the identification of "high risk" parents, i.e., parents whose expressed attitudes indicate a "high risk" for practicing abusive parenting and child rearing behaviors.

To this end, the following summary and recommendations are presented:

1. The Adolescent Parenting Inventory is an instrument that was initially designed by the authors to assess the parenting and child rearing attitudes of adolescents. Research with the API (Bavolek, et. al, 1978) has demonstrated successful utility of the inventory in assessing and discriminating the parenting and child rearing attitudes among abused and non-abused adolescents. The findings of the present study support the utility of the inventory in assessing and discriminating the parenting and child rearing attitudes among abusive and non-abusive parents. In all four parenting areas, abusive parents expressed significantly ($P < .001$) more abusive attitudes than non-abusive parents. Utilizing the scores generated from the abusive parent population as a tentative "high risk" standard, it is recommended that longitudinal research be conducted to establish the predictive validity of the Adult-Adolescent Parenting Inventory (AAPI).

2. Responses generated from the foster parent population indicate similarities in attitudes with abusive parents in expectations toward children and in utilizing physical punishment as a means of discipline. Traditionally, the criteria utilized by county agencies in selecting foster placements has failed to examine the parenting behaviors and attitudes of foster parent applicants. As a result, accounts of children being abused by foster parents are unfortunately too common. It is recommended that county personnel responsible for foster care programs develop screening and training components within their foster parent selection process. Such activities would be designed to assess the parenting and child rearing attitudes of potential foster parents, identify strengths and weaknesses, and provide training to remediate assessed deficiencies. The utilization of the AAPI and development of a training program based on the four parenting constructs offers a comprehensive approach to train and evaluate parenting and child rearing behaviors of foster parent applicants.

3. As a group, parents of handicapped children express limited empathic behaviors and place greater demands on children to meet their own needs. The literature abounds with empirical and clinical data that suggest handicapped children are a higher risk for abuse than non-handicapped children. In lieu of the similarities in attitudes between parents of handicapped children and abusive parents regarding the utilization of physical punishment as a means of diciplining children, the need for hospitals and schools to provide special training for parents with handicapped children is evident.

4. Finally, efforts in primary prevention of child abuse have been limited. In light of current governmental monetary cutbacks, programs and research aimed at the primary prevention of child abuse and neglect will be further limited. The immediate need for direct intervention and treatment of child abuse dwarf the aspirations of funding programs and strategies to prevent its initial occurence. Attempts to identify "high risk" individuals for abuse must, however, continue if the reduction of maltreatment to children at the hands of their parents is ever to be a reality.

Individuals, agencies and organizations desiring to participate in primary prevention research are encouraged to contact:

Dr. Stephen J. Bavolek
Department of Special Education
University of Wisconsin--Eau Claire
Eau Claire, Wisconsin 54701

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APPENDIX A

GENERAL INFORMATION

Each of the following statements should be completed. Although some questions may seem unrelated to the study, it is important that you respond to each statement.

Fill in or circle the appropriate answer:

1. Sex

   A. Male
   B. Female

2. Age:

   _____years

3. Ethnic Background

   A. Caucasian (White)
   B. Black
   C. American Indian
   D. Mexican American-Chicano
   E. Oriental
   F. Other_____

4. Highest grade completed:

   Grade School -
   1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

   High School -
   9 10 11 12

   College -
   fr. soph. jr. sr. grad.

   _____degree

5. Marital Status:

   A. Single
   B. Married
   C. Divorced
   D. Separated
   E. Widow(er)

6. Number of previous marriages:

   A. 0
   B. 1
   C. 2
   D. 3
   E. 4
   F. more than 4

7. Number of children you have from your present marriage:

   0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 more than 12

8. Number of children you have from previous marriages:

   0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 more than 12

9. Total number of children living with you:

   0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 more than 12

10. Please list the sex and current ages of the children living with you: (use back of page if needed)

A.	M F ___yrs	G.	M F ___yrs
B.	M F ___yrs	H.	M F ___yrs
C.	M F ___yrs	I.	M F ___yrs
D.	M F ___yrs	J.	M F ___yrs
E.	M F ___yrs	K.	M F ___yrs
F.	M F ___yrs	L.	M F ___yrs

11. Generally speaking, describe your relationship with your mother when you were a child.

    A. Excellent
    B. Above average
    C. Average
    D. Not too good
    E. Not good at all

12. Do you feel you were abused as a child by your mother?

    A. Yes
    B. No
    C. Don't know

13. Generally speaking, describe your relationship with your father when you were a child.

    A. Excellent
    B. Above average
    C. Average
    D. Not too good
    E. Not good at all

(Over)

14. Do you feel you were abused as a child by your father?

A. Yes
B. No
C. Don't know

15. Were you reared by:

A. Natural parents
B. Single parent family
C. Relatives
D. Foster parents
E. Adoptive parents
F. Institution

16. Are you currently working?

A. Yes
B. No

17. On the average, how many nights a week do you participate in outside activities? (clubs or social activities)

A. None
B. One
C. Two
D. Three
E. Four or more

APPENDIX B

GENERAL INFORMATION

Each of the following statements should be completed. Although some questions may seem unrelated to the study, it is important that you respond to each statement.

Fill in or circle the appropriate answer:

1. Sex:
   a Male
   b Female

2. Age:
   _____ years

3. Marital status:
   a Single
   b Married
   c Divorced
   d Separated
   e Widow(er)

4. Ethnic Background:
   a Caucasian (white)
   b Black
   c American Indian
   d Mexican American-Chicano
   e Other _____

5. Religious Preference:
   a Catholic
   b Protestant
   c LDS
   d No religious affiliation
   e Other: _____

6. How many foster children do you have?
   _____ (Put # here)

7. Before your foster child(ren) was/were placed in your custody, was there any previous history of abuse to the child?

Child A	Child B	Child C	Child D
Yes ( )	Yes ( )	Yes ( )	Yes ( )
No ( )	No ( )	No ( )	No ( )
Don't know ( )	Don't know ( )	Don't know ( )	Don't know ( )

8. Were you a foster child?
   a Yes
   b No

9. Generally speaking, describe your relationship with your parents when you were a child.
   a Excellent
   b Above average
   c Average
   d Not too good
   e Not good at all

10. Do you feel you were abused by your parents when you were a child?
    a Yes
    b No

11. Highest grade completed:
    Grade School
    1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
    High School
    9 10 11 12
    College-undergraduate
    13 14 15 16
    College-graduate
    _____ degree completed

12. Briefly describe why you became a foster parent.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Eau Claire County Department of Human Services

EAU CLAIRE, WISCONSIN 54701
SOCIAL SERVICES - (715) 839-4747
INCOME MAINTENANCE - (715) 839-4777
51.42/.437 SERVICES - (715) 839-4777

COURT HOUSE

MAURICE MILLER, Director

February, 1979

Dear Parent,

The Department of Human Services Foster Care Program, in cooperation with the Department of Special Education at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire is currently involved in a research project aimed at assessing attitudes towards parenting and child rearing.

You are being asked to participate in the study. Your participation means that you would complete a 32 item Parenting Inventory and Information sheet taking approximately 15 to 20 minutes. We are not interested in assessing the attitudes of any one individual in particular, but in the group of parents as a whole. You will note a number in the upper left hand corner of both the demographic sheet and the inventory. This number will allow us at the Department to record the returned responses. Because of the importance of the information for educational planning, we will follow-up on parents who may have lost or forgotten to complete the inventory. All information you provide is for research purposes only and will be held strictly confidential. When the study is completed, a report of the findings will be mailed to you upon request.

After completing the Inventory and Information sheet, please mail them to us in the enclosed self-addressed envelope. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Thank you for your involvement.

Sincerely,

Virginia Erickson

Virginia Erickson
Foster Care Coordinator

CLARK COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

STEVEN A. CLIFTON, Director

Box 190

NEILLSVILLE, WISCONSIN 54456

Categorical Aids
General Relief
Medical Assistance
Foster Home Care
Child Welfare
Counseling Services
Protective Services

March, 1979

Dear Parent,

The Department of Social Services Foster Care Program, in cooperation with the Department of Special Education at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire is currently involved in a research project aimed at assessing attitudes towards parenting and child rearing.

You are being asked to participate in the study. Your participation means that you would complete a 32 item Parenting Inventory and Information sheet taking approximately 15 to 20 minutes. We are not interested in assessing the attitudes of any one individual in particular, but in the group of parents as a whole. You will note a number in the upper left hand corner of both the demographic sheet and the inventory. This number will allow us at the Department to record the returned responses. Because of the importance of the information for educational planning, we will follow-up on parents who may have lost or forgotten to complete the inventory. All information you provide is for research purposes only and will be held strictly confidential. When the study is completed, a report of the findings will be mailed to you upon request.

After completing the Inventory and Information sheet, please mail to us in the enclosed self-addressed envelope by March 31st. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Thank you for your involvement.

Sincerely,

Mark Peterson

Mark Peterson
Foster Care Coordinator

Dana Norgard
Supervisor

APPENDIX C

GENERAL INFORMATION

Each of the following statements should be completed. Although some questions may seem unrelated to the study, it is important that you respond to each statement.

Fill in or circle the appropriate answer:

1. Sex

   a Male
   b Female

2. Age:

   _____years

3. Marital Status:

   a Single
   b Married
   c Divorced
   d Separated
   e Widow(er)

4. Ethnic Background:

   a Caucasian (white)
   b Black
   c American Indian
   d Mexican American-Chicano
   e Oriental
   f Other_____

5. Religious Preference:

   a Catholic
   b Protestant(Lutheran, Methodist)
   c LDS - Mormon
   d No religious affiliation
   e Other:_____

6. Number of previous marriages:

   a none d 3
   b 1 e more than 3
   c 2

7. Number of children you have from your present marriage:

   1 5 9 More than 12
   2 6 10
   3 7 11
   4 8 12

8. Number of children you have from previous Marriages:

   None 4 8 12
   1 5 9 More than 12
   2 6 10
   3 7 11

9. Generally speaking, describe your relationship with your mother:

   a Excellent
   b Above Average
   c Average
   d Not too good
   e Not good at all

10. Generally speaking, describe your relationship with your father:

    a Excellent
    b Above Average
    c Average
    d Not too good
    e Not good at all

11. Do you feel you were abused by your parents when you were a child?

    yes_____ no_____

12. Were you reared by:

    a natural parents
    b single parent family
    c relatives
    d foster parents
    e adoptive parents
    f institution

13. Are you currently working?

    yes_____ no_____

14. Would you please describe your childs' handicap:

    _____
    _____
    _____
    _____
    _____

UNITED
CEREBRAL PALSY
WEST CENTRAL WI. Inc.

January 31, 1979

Dear Parent,

United Cerebral Palsy of West Central Wisconsin, in cooperation with the Department of Special Education at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, is currently involved in a research project aimed at assessing attitudes towards parenting and child rearing.

You are being asked to participate in the study. Your participation means that you would complete the enclosed 32 item Parenting Inventory and Information Sheet taking approximately 15 to 20 minutes. We are not interested in assessing the attitudes of any one individual in particular, but in the group of parents as a whole.

Your signature on the form provided acknowledges your participation. All information you provide is for research purposes only and will be held strictly confidential. When the study is completed, a report of the findings will be mailed to you upon request.

After completion of the Inventory and Information Sheet please mail it and the acknowledge form to us in the enclosed self-addressed envelope. Thank you for your involvement. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Ruth A. Gullerud
Program Director

RG/jh

United Way

306 south barstow st. eau claire, wi. 54701 (715) 832-1782

SERVING: EAU CLAIRE, CHIPPEWA, ST.CROIX, DUNN, RUSK, BARRON, PIERCE, POLK, PEPIN COUNTIES

COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICE AGENCY #6

725 W. PARK AVENUE, CHIPPEWA FALLS, WI 54729 (715) 723-0341

GORDON CLAY, COORDINATOR

March 1979

Dear Parent,

Cooperative Educational Services Agency No. 6, in cooperation with the Department of Special Education at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, is currently involved in a research project aimed at assessing attitudes towards parenting and child rearing.

You are being asked to participate in the study. Your participation means that you would complete the enclosed 32 item Parenting Inventory and Information sheet taking approximately 15 to 20 minutes. We are not interested in assessing the attitudes of any one individual in particular, but in the group of parents as a whole.

You will note a number in the upper left hand corner of both the demographic sheet and the inventory. This number will allow us at C.E.S.A. to record the returned responses. Because of the importance of the information for educational planning, we will follow-up on parents who may have lost or forgotten to complete the inventory.

All information you provide is for research purposes only and will be held strictly confidential. When the sutdy is completed, a report of the findings will be mailed to you upon request.

After completing the Inventory and Information Sheet please mail it to us in the enclosed self-addressed envelope. Thank you for your involvement. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Mark A. Jansen

Mark A. Jansen, Consultant
Emotional Disturbance

Abbotsford	Chippewa Falls	Fall Creek	Lake Holcombe	Osseo-Fairchild
Altoona	Colby	Gilman	Loyal	Owen-Withee
Augusta	Cornell	Gilmanton	Mondovi	Spencer
Bloomer	Eau Claire	Granton	Neillsville	Stanley-Boyd
Cadott	Eleva-Strum	Greenwood	New Auburn	Thorp

APPENDIX D

GENERAL INFORMATION

Each of the following statements should be completed. Although some questions may seem unrelated to the study, it is important that you respond to each statement.

Fill in or circle the appropriate answer:

1. Sex

   A. Male
   B. Female

2. Age:

   _____years

3. Ethnic Background

   A. Caucasian (White)
   B. Black
   C. American Indian
   D. Mexican American-Chicano
   E. Oriental
   F. Other_____

4. Highest grade completed:

   Grade School -
   1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

   High School -
   9 10 11 12

   College -
   fr. soph. jr. sr. grad.

   _____degree

5. Marital Status:

   A. Single
   B. Married
   C. Divorced
   D. Separated
   E. Widow(er)

6. Number of previous marriages:

   A. 0
   B. 1
   C. 2
   D. 3
   E. 4
   F. more than 4

7. Number of children you have from your present marriage:

   0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
   more than 12

8. Number of children you have from previous marriages:

   0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 more than 12

9. Total number of children living with you:

   0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 more than 12

10. Please list the sex and current ages of the children living with you: (use back of page if needed)

A.	M F ___yrs	G.	M F ___yrs
B.	M F ___yrs	H.	M F ___yrs
C.	M F ___yrs	I.	M F ___yrs
D.	M F ___yrs	J.	M F ___yrs
E.	M F ___yrs	K.	M F ___yrs
F.	M F ___yrs	L.	M F ___yrs

11. Generally speaking, describe your relationship with your mother when you were a child.

    A. Excellent
    B. Above average
    C. Average
    D. Not too good
    E. Not good at all

12. Do you feel you were abused as a child by your mother?

    A. Yes
    B. No
    C. Don't know

13. Generally speaking, describe your relationship with your father when you were a child.

    A. Excellent
    B. Above average
    C. Average
    D. Not too good
    E. Not good at all

(Over)

14. Do you feel you were abused as a child by your father?

A. Yes
B. No
C. Don't know

15. Were you reared by:

A. Natural parents
B. Single parent family
C. Relatives
D. Foster parents
E. Adoptive parents
F. Institution

16. Are you currently working?

A. Yes
B. No

17. On the average, how many nights a week do you participate in outside activities? (clubs or social activities)

A. None
B. One
C. Two
D. Three
E. Four or more

April 1979

Dear Parent,

Cooperative Educational Services Agency No. 5, in cooperation with the Department of Special Education at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, is currently involved in a research project aimed at assessing attitudes towards parenting and child rearing.

You are being asked to participate in the study. Your participation means that you would complete the enclosed 32 item Parenting Inventory and Information Sheet taking approximately 15 to 20 minutes. We are not interested in assessing the attitudes of any one individual in particular, but in the group of parents as a whole.

Because of the importance of the information for educational planning we hope you will return the inventory by April 15, 1979, in the enclosed self addressed envelope. All information you provide is for research purposes only and will be held in strict confidence. When the study is completed each Early Childhood Center in C.E.S.A. 5 will receive a copy of the report for your review.

Thank you for your involvement. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Stephen Bavolek, Special Education Department, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.

Sincerely,

Stephen J. Bavolek, Ph. D.
Assistant Professor

SB:jh

UWEC UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-EAU CLAIRE/EAU CLAIRE, WISCONSIN 54701

April 1979

Dear Parent,

The Eau Claire Pre-School, Inc., in cooperation with the Department of Special Education at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, is currently involved in a research project aimed at assessing attitudes towards parenting and child rearing.

You are being asked to participate in the study. Your participation means that you would complete the enclosed 32 item Parenting Inventory and Information Sheet taking approximately 15 to 20 minutes. We are not interested in assessing the attitudes of any one individual in particular, but in the group of parents as a whole.

Because of the importance of the information for educational planning, we hope you will return the completed inventory to the Eau Claire Pre-School by May 15, 1979.

All information you provide is for research purposes only and will be held strictly confidential. When the study is completed, a report of the findings will be mailed to the school for your review.

Thank you for your involvement. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Stephen Bavolek, Special Education Department, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.

Sincerely,

Kathy Radloff

Kathy Radloff
President

jh

The University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire provides equal educational and employment opportunity regardless of sex, age, marital or parental status, race, color, religion, national origin, or handicap in compliance with Title IX and Title VI. Refer questions to Affirmative Action Office, 225 Schofield Hall, 715 836-5717

April 1979

Dear Parent,

The University Children's Center, in cooperation with the Department of Special Education at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, is currently involved in a research project aimed at assessing attitudes towards parenting and child rearing.

You are being asked to participate in the study. Your participation means that you would complete the enclosed 32 item Parenting Inventory and Information Sheet taking approximately 15 to 20 minutes. We are not interested in assessing the attitudes of any one individual in particular, but in the group of parents as a whole.

Because of the importance of the information for educational planning, we hope you will return the completed inventory to the Children's Center by April 15, 1979.

All information you provide is for research purposes only and will be held strictly confidential. When the study is completed, a report of the findings will be mailed the the University Children's Center for your review.

Thank you for your involvement. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Stephen Bavolek, Special Education Department, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.

Sincerely,

Marie Evans

Marie Evans
Director

ME:jh